



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES OF STORAGE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 2

C. L. "Butch" Otter
Governor

Burley Inn
September 12, 2008

Jerry R. Rigby
Chairman
Rexburg
At Large

Terry T. Uhling
Vice Chairman
Boise
District 2

Bob Graham
Secretary
Bonners Ferry
At Large

**Charles "Chuck"
Cuddy**
Orofino
District 1

Leonard Beck
Burley
District 3

L. Claude Storer
Idaho Falls
District 4

**Gary M.
Chamberlain**
Challis
At Large

**Lawrence "Vic"
Armacost**
New Meadows
At Large

The Chairman of the committee, Terry Uhling, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Bob Graham, Vic Armacost, Chuck Cuddy and Jerry Rigby, Gary Chamberlain were also present.

Staff members present were Dave Tuthill, Director; Hal Anderson, Administrator; Brian Patton, Bureau Chief of Planning; Cynthia Bridge Clark, Engineer; Bob McLaughlin, Public Information Officer and Patsy McGourty, Recording Secretary.

Guests in attendance were:

John Chatburn, Governor's Office	Jon Bowling, Idaho Power Company
Peter Anderson, Trout Unlimited	John Williams, Bonneville Power Co.
Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United	Lynn Tominaga, IWUA

Agenda Item No. 1, Review of Notes from Meeting No. 01

Chairman Uhling asked the committee members and the Director for comments on the previous meeting notes. There no changes.

Agenda Item No. 2, Galloway Project

Chairman Uhling asked for an update on the Galloway Project. Mr. Patton said staff were developing a scope of work and cost estimate for the feasibility study. Director Tuthill stated he had attended a meeting with legislative representatives and water users. He noted that people in the impact area are concerned that property values will go down although there was good support for the project.

Ms. Clark added that attorney representatives from Aqua Caliente are concerned about geo thermal leases in the impact area of Galloway Dam. Director Tuthill added that there are no department evaluations of geothermal uses in the area.

A question was raised about the Bonneville Power Administration being involved in this process. Chairman Uhling stated that they have to be a part of the scoping process. Chairman Uhling asked if this process is in a holding pattern. Director Tuthill said that until the Legislature acts on the budget request for the feasibility study, this project is low key right now and only internal scoping is being done.

Mr. Chamberlain added that environmental impact needs consideration at the outset. Chairman Uhling stated that conversations with community members to gain support are necessary.

Agenda Item No. 3, Update on Minidoka, Teton and Boise River Studies

Regarding the Teton study, Director Tuthill stated that there are meetings next month and staff needs environmental input. Chairman Uhling asked guests if they had input. Mr. Peter Anderson from Trout Unlimited said his group had no position. Mr. Lewis with Idaho Rivers United stated that storage is a big issue and needs a big solution. He suggested an initiative to involve all parties to an agreement. Chairman Uhling asked staff to give thought on the approach to this project. Mr. Rigby added that the Fremont-Madison Irrigation Company did a study some years ago that Board members should read. Mr. Patton stated that copies will be provided to the Board.

The BOR are planning budget reductions. There is a new federal program coming similar to the 2025 grant program for water supply issues in the West. He stated that an agreement with the Board and Bureau of Reclamation would be drafted in January on the Teton and Boise studies.

Chairman Uhling expressed concern about staff resources. He asked that the committee be advised about this. Mr. Anderson responded that there is money available in the aquifer planning budget.

Agenda Item No. 4, Other Items

Mr. Armacost stated that the Board is required to have a list of storage projects in the State Water Plan. He is on the sub-committee. Mr. Chamberlain stated that staff have taken care of that by adding this list to the Resource Inventory that is being developed. There was discussion about which projects to list. Director Tuthill added that each project needs a local champion. Chairman Uhling asked that a priority list of projects outlining the criteria that make these projects the most valuable to pursue.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Board's past policy in the State Water Plan in regard to storage projects has been to identify certain areas of land use. Mr. Norm Semanko from the Idaho Water Users has stated that this is not adequate. An update on projects is needed for the State Water Plan. The Resource Inventory can be updated with legislative approval. New language on the Board's policy for storage is also needed in the new State Water Plan. Chairman Uhling asked if it would include climate change. Mr. Chamberlain stated it needs to include the words "pursue aggressively." Mr. Cuddy asked how much control the state would have over the water and the facility. Chairman Uhling responded that this depends on who pays for it and this is the critical issue.


Director Tuthill introduced Ms. Cynthia Bridge Clark, a new engineer who has been hired to work on the new aquifer studies. Ms. Clark provided some personal background information on her education and experience with the department working with the water supply bank and at the Western Regional Office on dam safety.

Agenda Item No. 5, Next Meeting Date

The committee set the next meeting date for November 5 immediately following the Board's work session.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dated this 15th day of September 2008.



Patsy McGourty
Administrative Assistant II